

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 290767 TOSEC 310219

44

ORIGIN NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 /023 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: NEA:AEGRIFFIN

APPROVED BY: NEA:AEGRIFFIN

S/S- SESTEINER

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O 291517Z NOV 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 290767 TOSEC 310219

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN BEIRUT CAIRO DAMASCUS
FROM TEL AVIV DTD 29 NOV 1976 QTE

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 8024

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LE, IS, SY

SUBJECT: CABINET DISCUSSION OF LEBANON NOVEMBER 28

1. THE OFFICIAL CABINET COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT
PRESS OFFICE FOLLOWING THE WEEKLY CABINET MEETING ON NOVEMBER 28
INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING REPORT OF THE CABINET'S DISCUSSION OF
LEBANON:

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF DEENSE REVIEWED THE SITUATION IN
SOUTHERN LEBANON. THE MINISTE OF DEFENSE REVIEWED THE SITUATION IN
LEBANON. THE VILLAGERS WERE IN CONTROL OF THE SOUTHERN LEBANESE
VILLAGES, A FEW HUNDRED FORMER LEBANESE ARMY MEN--LINKED TO THEIR
BEIRUT CENTERS--ALSO BEING LOCATED IN THE REGION.

3. ISRAEL'S POSITION REMAINS UNCHANGED. ISRAEL HAS RESPECTED
LEBANON'S SOVEREIGNTY AND BORDER, AND PROPOSES TO DO SO IN
FUTURE AS WELL.

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4. THE SOUTHERN LEBANESE REGION IS DEFENDED BY ITS POPULATION.

ANY SYRIAN INCURSION SOUTH OF THE PESENT DEPLOYMENT WILL ONLY INCREASE TENSION AND CREATE FRESH HAZARDS. AN ATTEMPT BY THE PLO TO TRANSFORM THIS CALM REGION INTO A "TERRORIST STRIP" WILL ENCOUNTER FIRM ISRAELI OPPOSITION. THE SOUTHERN LEBANESE VILLAGE POPULATION, TOO, OPPOSES TERRORISM AND DESTRUCTION . ACTIVITY AT THE GOOD FENCE--MEDICAL AID, SUPPLY ARRANGEMENTS AND PROVISION OF WORK OPPORTUNITIES--CONTINUES DESPITE THE INCLEMENT WEATHER. ISRAEL IS TAKING THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO AFFORD THE REGION'S POPULATION ACCESS TO THE CLINICS AND SUPPLY CENTERS, DESPITE TRAFFIC DISRUPTIONS CAUSED BY THE WINTRY WEATHER.

5. THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAID ISRAEL'S TREND IN DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS HAD BEEN AND IS TO PREVENT ANY MISUNDERSTANDING REGARDING THE ABSOLUTE CREDIBILITY OF ISRAEL'S POSITION CONCERNING WHAT SHOULD AND WHAT SHOULD NOT HAPPEN IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. THERE IS NO LONGER ANY DOUBT THAT ALL BODIES CONCERNED ARE VERY CLEARLY AWARE OF ISRAEL'S POSITION.

6. THE FOREIGN MINISTER STIPULATED THAT POLICING OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON MUST BE CARRIED OUT BY LEBANESE SECURITY FORCES THAT SHOULD AND CAN BE SWIFTLY ORGANIZED, AND THAT WOULD OPERATE UNDER LEBANESE COMMAND AND UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE LEBANESE PRESIDENT AND GOVERNMENT. END TEXT
TOON UNQTE ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, CABINET, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, COMMUNIQUEs, BORDER INCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE290767
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA:AEGRIFFIN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760441-0750
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976117/aaaaafnx.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2004 by castelsl>; APPROVED <22 NOV 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CABINET DISCUSSION OF LEBANON NOVEMBER 28
TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, LE, IS, SY
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006